



DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 2008

ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis

The first batch of supplemental real estate tax bills for 2008 were sent out in April to owners of 32 properties that were completed and received occupancy permits after July 1, 2007. Those bills will bring in about \$53,000 in new revenue to the town which will become part of free cash in FY2009. Another smaller batch will probably be mailed out in August.

The office wrapped up real estate abatements and exemptions early in the month making way for changes to be completed for the new fiscal year which starts July 1. Staff has been busy updating ownership and physical property changes in anticipation of the creation of a preliminary real estate tax billing file. Those files need to be assembled late in May to enable the collector to send preliminary real estate bills by June 30 which will be payable August 1.

Sales data and construction costs from calendar year 2007 are among the considerations for the determination of property values for FY2009. A cursory review shows a devalued market which is a reason many people have complained that their real estate assessments are too high. The assessor is studying the market data and will arrive at new valuations. Taxpayers need to know that State Department of Revenue (DOR) requires assessments as of January 1 preceding the start of a fiscal year which means assessors must value property based on data that is 12 to 18 months old by the time the valuations are printed on the final tax bills for the fiscal year which are mailed by December 31.

With all this in mind, valuation adjustments will be completed by the fall and will be submitted for DOR approval simultaneously with our new growth numbers. The new growth will reflect all construction activity since July 1, 2007.

Spring typically marks the start of looking at building permits and the continuation of an on-going photograph inventory of all real estate in town. Although new construction has diminished, we still have about 360 permits that were taken out during the last couple of years that must be re-checked annually until they are completed and signed off on. Despite the slowdown in housing construction there are still nearly as many permits issued as last year. See the building inspector reports this year for details.

We continually review and update our assessed valuations. Re-certification of valuations occurs every three years according to DOR mandate. Our next one is for FY2010. Interim adjustments are made between the certification years.

The assessor attended a Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers sponsored seminar April 16 and 17 which covered a variety of topics including Appellate Tax Board suggestions, certification preparation, data review techniques, land rate schedules, sales documentation required by DOR, and commercial property valuation.

Also discussed were the recent court decisions revolving around the telecommunications industry. We may see lots of new growth when we begin to tax poles and wires over public ways which were previously exempt. DOR will require us to keep an off-setting amount in overlay account in case Verizon wins its challenge in a higher court. Those numbers will be released in May. We also have cell phone companies that won an ATB argument regarding DOR assigned assessed valuations. We will have to wait and see if ATB abatement awards in those cases may be a drain on past year overlay accounts. This will be a topic of an MAAO seminar later in May.

There remains a lot of real estate inventory available for sale here with 92 single family homes on the market, 46 condominiums, five multi family properties and 32 other listings of land or lots.

Our month was capped off with a Worcester County Assessor Association sponsored meeting held at the new Worcester District Registry of Deeds which moved from the old court house to renovated quarters in the former Worcester Center Galleria. The assessor was accompanied by Administrative Assistant Barbara Harris and Senior Clerk Jennifer Hyland for a presentation by registry staff on what services are available to assessing staff.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Denise Delannoy

During the month of April 2008, the Board of Health office received more than 200 telephone inquiries. Of these, there were nearly 20 calls regarding animals, and more than 50 (one-fourth) were Recycling-related. Nearly 100 walk-in customers were also serviced during April. Half of these customers dealt with Recycling-related issues.

During April there were 13 permits issued, as follows:

Curbside Hauler: 1

Food Permits: 3

Percolation: 1

Percolation/Plan Review Extension: 1

Stable: 5

Septic Installer: 3

There were 11 complaints filed, half of which were trash-related (licensed haulers, etc)

Ten restaurants were given their bi-annual inspections and two re-inspections completed for a newly established business.

Noteworthy Projects:

This month we have had two incidents with wildlife. In one incident, because there was no human/animal contact, testing of the animal was not necessary. In another incident, there was human/animal contact, which made it necessary to have the animals tested.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro

I went to a Building Officials Conference on April 2 & 3 in Taunton. On April 22, I attended a Building Inspector's meeting which they presented a plaque to Laura Robbins & family in appreciation for the service her husband State Build Inspector, William Robbins accomplished during many years of service.

The Electrical inspector and I were called by the Fire Dept. to the scene of a house which a tree had fallen on during high winds.

In April 2008, the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Building Permits	46	Fees Collected	\$ 15,151.00
Electric Permits	15	Fees Collected	\$ 930.00
Plumbing Permits	9	Fees Collected	\$ 485.00
Gas Permits	13	Fees Collected	\$ 630.00
		Total Collected	\$ 17,196.00

Following are the Building Permits in various categories that were issued during the month of April 2008.

1 Steel Building additions	4 Additions
14 Roof	2 sheds
2 Stove - Pellet	4 Condo's total 6469sf
1 window replacement	2 Remodel commercial space
2 barns	1 temporary trailer
1 basement	1 Sign
1 fence	3 Above-ground Pools
1 Farmers porch	1 Kitchen remodel
1 repair of old mill building	1 Handicap Ramp
3 assorted building permits	

Only 6 were Commercial permits

7 Certificate of Occupancies for New Houses/Condos were issued during April 2008

CABLE ACCESS: Submitted by Barry Giles

Community Programming: The volunteers and staff have continued to produce new programming for the community by covering various events in town. In April we the staff produced two new episodes of Watts Cookin' to be aired in May and June. We have also received a new program titles Physician's Forum, a program that discussed issues relating to the medical industry. With town meeting right around the corner, Town Manager Jill Myers has produced a serried of programs discussing issues related to the town meeting warrant. We are also preparing for the upcoming elections with the coverage of various candidates nights hosted by different organizations in town. Along with the candidate's nights, we have also given the candidates to come into the studio to tape a segment for Candidate's Forum, a program that will air two weeks before elections. This will give local candidates the opportunity to get there message out to the community.

We have also continued to cover more government meetings through out the month.

Video on the Town Website: I have been in contact with Mitch Cohen and Robert Bonnel to finalize the details in regards to the server and programs need to stream line the process of airing programs on

the town website. Mitch has developed a program that is used in the Town of Douglas to upload their government meetings to their town site. This will allow for easier access to the community.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Please see the Planning and Economic Development report below.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo

Monthly Statistical Data

Outreach Report

Office Visits	39	CMAA Meeting	1
Nursing Home	4	Wakes & Funerals	1
Home Visits	8	Stimulus Pkg. Rebate Check Filing	16
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	5	Telephone calls in & out	139
Medical APPTS.	1	SHINE Appts.	8

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs and clubs for the month of **March 2008:**

Van Transportation (rides)	412	Medical Transportation	84
AARP Tax Help	33	Card Games/Pitch	157
Meals on Wheels Delivered	2,084	Weekend meals/storm meals frozen delivered	90
Congregate Meals Served	456	Total Meals Served	2,630
Cash Turnovers	\$557.00	Phone calls in & out	839
Guestbook	696	Super WalMart	18
Cards sent to elders	25	Fallon Rep	7
Vital Signs	21	Hannaford	118
Lunch attendance	456	CVS	34
Bank/Other	12	4/10 Lunch n Learn w/Tri Valley/Nutrition	28
Computer Classes & walk ins	14	4/8 Opening Day Raffle Uxb Elderly Connect.	\$404.00
		4/16 Fallon Rep	7
Senior Club	55	4/24 Lunch n Learn VNA Misuses of meds	36
		4/27 Pancake Breakfast (\$404 raffle baskets fundraiser for van)	137

News from SHINE – Vaccines Administered Under Medicare Part D. As of 2008, all Part D plans are required to cover commercially available vaccines that are not covered under Part B. Not all vaccines covered by Part D plans will be listed in their formularies. You should contact your Part D plan about coverage and the payment procedure for the vaccine. Medicare Part B currently covers the following vaccines: Pneumonia, Influenza and Hepatitis B for individuals at high or immediate risk. A beneficiary not meeting the high risk criteria may be eligible to obtain the vaccine under their Part D

plan. Medicare Part D generally covers those vaccines not covered under Part B. Call us at 508-278-8622 if you need any help on any aspect of your health insurance.

Digital Television Converter Box Coupons Under Medicaid

The Department of Commerce is planning to send “coupons” worth \$40 to households for the purpose of purchasing television digital converter boxes. The coupons are to help defray the cost of purchasing the boxes, which will be needed by people who do not have digital television receivers when television signals are no longer broadcast in analog format beginning in 2009. The coupons can only be used to purchase a converter box; the coupons do not meet the definition of income and thus would not be counted as income under Medicaid.

Building Demolition Update

On April 4th we received an estimate of \$44,000.00 from James Connolly, Project Manager at TMC Services, Inc., One William Way, Bellingham, MA to demolish the vacant building next to the Senior Center. This price includes the cost to abate the asbestos around the boiler, cut and cap utility lines at the street and demo the structure and backfill the excavation. Mr. Connolly recommends that a formal hazardous material survey be conducted before demolition. Typically the hazardous material survey does not include soil sampling, only structure sampling. Mr. Connolly estimates an additional cost of \$1,800 and \$3,000 for the hazardous material survey depending on the number of samples taken. Based on this survey other hazardous material may need abatement or remediation, increasing the cost of demolition.

COA Building Use

- ❑ Pitch Club Monday, April 7th, 14th, 28th 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- ❑ The NAMI Mental Health Support Group met on Tuesday, April 1st. 7 PM
- ❑ The UNNC Sunday, April 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th for their candidates forum 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- ❑ COA Board Meeting – Tuesday, 4/8/08 @ 4PM
- ❑ Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., Tuesday, 4/8/08 @ 7 PM
- ❑ Town Hall union meeting Fri. 4/11 - 4:30 pm @ Senior Center – Barbara Harris Union Steward
- ❑ SERVE New England – Saturday, April 19th @ 9:00 – 12:00 noon
- ❑ First Holiday Night & Uxbridge Elderly Connection Pancake Breakfast Sun., 4/27 7am-11am

Monthly Meetings Attended by Director:

- ❑ Interagency Breakfast Meeting @ Pleasant Valley – Avoiding Scams & Identity Theft – Weds., April 2nd with Police Chief
- ❑ The Council on Aging Board at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 8th
- ❑ Friday, April 11th attended Legislative Breakfast @ Milford Senior Center – Rep Jennifer Callahan & Michael E. Festa, former state representative for the 32nd Middlesex District, now Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- ❑ Department Head Meeting – Police Station April 14th 2pm – 3pm
- ❑ Fin Com Meeting re Van Article # 15 Thurs., 4/24 @ 7pm

Free Stimulus Package Filing Help Available

The Uxbridge Senior Center will be offering free stimulus package filing help beginning March 19th and running through October. To date we have assisted 124 senior citizens with their 1040A forms.

SMOC ~ FUEL ASSISTANCE Program has been extended through May 16th

The Uxbridge Senior Center is an official in-take site for fuel assistance. If you have any questions about the process, eligibility, or documents needed to accompany the application, we can help. Please call the Center @ 508-278-8622 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

COMPUTER CORNER

Computer classes will begin on Thursday, May 1st and run for six weeks through mid June.

April 2008 – Upcoming Events

Pitch Party Every Monday Night:

April 7, 14, and 28th. No Pitch on Monday, April 21st. The Center is closed in observance of Patriot's Day. Pitch begins @ 6:30 PM ~ \$2 donation. We are always looking for new participants. We have a big comfortable Center, just right for playing cards together. Coffee and complimentary refreshments served each week.

Tuesday Afternoons 1:30 – 4:00 PM:

Come join us for an afternoon of card playing every Tuesday at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Contact Rita @ 278-2824 for more information about this card group. All are welcome!

Tues., April 1st:

No foolin! We will host the Trinity Symphonette, back by popular demand, beginning at 11:30 am. We hope you will join us for very special and fun-filled musical luncheon with Lee Bartlett, conductor. Call Carrie at 278-7609 to make your reservation.

Tues., April 1st:

NAMI Support Group meets @ Senior Center @ 7:00 pm. This group is for individuals and family members caring for people with mental illness and not recommended for individuals with mental illness.

Thurs., April 3rd:

SHINE – Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders. Please call 508-278-8622 to make your appointment.

Sun., April 6th:

7:00 PM UNNC Craft Night

Tues., April 8th:

COA Meeting – New Time! 4:00 pm

Tues., April 8th:

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection will meet following the COA meeting at 6:00 pm to discuss upcoming fundraisers.

Thurs., April 10th:

Walmart Shopping pickup begins @ 8:30

Thurs., April 10th:

11:30 Lunch n Learn with Lu Pilzner, Nutritionist from Tri Valley will be on board to discuss healthy foods for a

healthy heart. Call Carrie at 278-7609 to make your luncheon reservation.

Sun., April 13th:

UNNC Business Meeting @ 7 PM

Tues., April 15th:

11:30 AM – FREE! VNA Blood pressure and vital sign clinic. First come, first served. Why not join us for lunch? Call Carrie at 508-278-7609 to make your reservation.

Weds., April 16th:

Fallon Rep, Gail Trubow will be here to discuss your insurance questions by appointment only. Please call the Center at 508-278-8622 to make an appointment.

Thurs. April 17th:

Public Meeting and Steering Committee Workshop 7-9 PM @ Uxbridge Police Station. All are welcome. This downtown revitalization study is funded by MassDevelopment. Public meetings are just one way we are looking for your input. If you cannot attend, or have some thoughts you want to express, please contact Megan T. DiPrete, Dept of Planning & Economic Development @ 508-278-6487

Thurs., April 24th:

11:30 AM – FREE! Lunch n Learn with Maureen Sendrowski, VNA Care Network Nurse will cover topics such as common misuses of medications and drug interactions, warning signs of medication-related problems and tips for safe medication management. This program is for seniors age 60 years and over and is FREE with funding provided by a grant from the Central Mass Agency on Aging and the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Call Carrie at 508-278-7609 to reserve your seat today!

Sunday, April 27th:

7:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Pancake Breakfast! First Holiday Night and the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., will co-sponsor a full breakfast with muffins, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice and coffee. Tickets available at the door or at the Senior Center. Don't miss this fun spring fundraising event. Get your tickets early. Our raffle basket fundraiser will help offset the cost for a new senior center van. Call 278-8622 for more info.

Sunday, April 27th:

Candidates Night! The UNNC will host a candidates forum at the Senior Center beginning at 7 PM. We invite the community to join us for this informational session. Meet the candidates and bring your questions. Call the Center at 278-8622 for more information.

REMINDER: Transportation to and from medical appointments is available at the Senior Center. Call ahead, as soon as you book your next appointment. It is never too early to book an appointment. If you are willing, we will gladly reschedule your appointment if there is a conflict. Call Susan, at 508-278-8622 to make your medical appointment reservation.

DPW: Submitted by Irving Priest

WATER

1. Construction is progressing on the water main through the Taft Park. A second crew has been added, with one continuing at the upper end and a second beginning at the lower end. It is expected that the park portion will be completed in May.
2. The tank bid came in sufficiently low to eliminate the need for a request for additional funding at Town Meeting. Documents are being processed in the hopes that a "Notice to Proceed" will take place in May.

WASTEWATER

1. After checking references of the low bidder on the roof replacement, a notice of award was given to MDM Engineering. Once the remainder of the paperwork is completed, it is expected that the contractor will be able to begin work in late May.
2. Seasonal disinfection and phosphorous removal has begun with the change in temperatures and weather.

HIGHWAY

1. Spring highway work has begun. Approximately 14 streets will be crack sealed, a preventative maintenance measure. A portion of East Hartford Avenue will be asphalt shimmed and treated with a stone seal as a surface treatment. Depending on the progress by MHD, the remainder of the latest round of Chapter 90 monies will either be used to finish the design work for Route 122 or be used for further local road repairs.

FINANCE DIRECTOR/ACCOUNTING: Submitted by David Genereux

No report provided (awaiting financial data)

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey

INCIDENT REPORT: The Department responded to 176 emergency incidents including 14 fire/explosion incident, 121 rescue/medical emergencies, 5 hazardous conditions, 8 service calls, 13 good intent calls, and 15 false alarms. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities during 9 incidents and received mutual aid in on 3 occasions. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- April 1: a large tree fell on a single family home at 2128 Oak Street resulting in heavy damage to the building but no injuries;
- April 12: a lightning strike at 869 Quaker Highway damaged the fire alarm and sprinkler system (fire pump);
- April 17: a construction crew pierced a 2" gas main on Summerfield Drive at Taft Hill Lane requiring service interruptions in the area;
- Dry conditions combined with warm weather resulted in numerous brush fires throughout the region. Mutual aid was provided to Upton (4/17), Douglas (4/19) Thompson CT (4/22) and Milford (4/23).

The ambulance service evaluated 139 patients, provided care and transported 118 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (97), U-Mass – University Campus (14), U-Mass Memorial Campus (2), Woonsocket (1), St. Vincent's (3) and Hasbro Children's (1). Advanced life support service from other agencies was involved on 73 occasions.

FIRE PREVENTION: Permits and inspections completed over the past month include 15 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections completed, and permits issued for storage of LP gas (5), storage of heating oil (3), open air burning permits (338), and blasting (1) storage of smokeless or black powder (2), and modification of a sprinkler system (1).

Fire Department personnel worked on several plan review projects for installation of fire alarm systems and renovation/adaptation for new occupancies in existing structures.

TRAINING: Members of the Department participated in training on response to medical emergencies involving hemophilia, self-contained breathing apparatus operations, deployment of ground ladders and attack hoseline operations. One member attended training presented by the federal Homeland Security Office on Incident response to Terrorist Bombings and Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents.

GENERAL: Open Air Burning season ends at 4:00 pm on May 1 per the regulations issued by the state. Weather conditions toward the end of April caused us to suspend open burning due to high fire danger. Residents are reminded that open air burning season runs from January 15 through May 1 and only cooking fires are permitted otherwise. Caution must be taken to prevent outside fires from getting out of control.

Department personnel assisted the Uxbridge DPW in performing flow tests from the hydrant system in support of the water master plan and Insurance Service Office survey currently in progress.

LIBRARY: Submitted by Deb Young

No report provided.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Submitted by Megan DiPrete

Projects/Meetings:

Regional Planning. I continue to work closely with the 4-town group, the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission.

The CMRPC and Chamber of Commerce continued work on a regional economic development planning project. The planning and DPW staff of several communities have provided a variety of relevant data so that a view of our region's infrastructure capabilities and limitations, across municipal borders, can be determined. As a follow up preliminary meetings, Irving Priest and I have continued to coordinate materials to facilitate this regional approach to economic development planning

The planners in the Four-Town group worked together in April as neighboring towns are applying for 43D grant funds through the 43D program. The coordinated approach will (hopefully) allow Uxbridge to benefit from these projects, which include some analysis of infrastructure opportunities in this area.

With regarding to computerized permit tracking, there are several firms that provide services to various municipalities and, according to the planners' networks, there is little consensus about the preference of any one firm. We (in the profession) are now working with the state to develop a coordinated approach.

Blackstone Valley Bikeway. I attended a Task Force meeting to review progress and schedules. Both Uxbridge segments (2 and 3) are under design, and also in the beginning of the environmental permitting process. The Bike Path alignment was taken off Oak Street at the Town's early request, and is located on DCR land from Route 16 north into Northbridge. There are several affected property owners in the stretch between Route 16 and Route 122 (near Susan Parkway), and the ongoing Alternatives Analysis will continue to evaluate the most appropriate alignments.

Master/Planning activity. In January, received a grant for up to \$25,000 in value from MassDevelopment (part of the Commonwealth's Business Resource Team), which has hired the Cecil Group to develop a master plan for our downtown area, including plans for achieving an articulated downtown vision. The Cecil Group conducted another public session in April. As a result, the plan will be finalized in May. The steering committee will seek to meet with the Selectmen to review the key outcomes, and implementation plan. And the Lieutenant Governor, who has been a dedicated supporter of our local efforts, is also hoping to meet with the group (May/June).

As an outgrowth of this community visioning and planning effort, several volunteers have come forward and are working to implement some downtown "beautification" efforts this spring. I am working to coordinate and maximize the output of this resurgence of stewardship for the downtown area. Of course, it may also serve as a model for launching similar levels of commitment in other parts of the community.

Open Space Plan. The update project is underway. PGC Associates facilitated a public input session in April, through the Conservation Commission. Recall that this project is funded by a grant from The Trustees of Reservations. Ultimately an Open Space Plan increases our eligibility for a variety of grant programs (not just open space related) and brings us one step closer to having the components needed to constitute a Master Plan for the Community. A draft will be available early in the summer

Affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Committee is working toward developing an Affordable Housing plan for the community that would comply with state housing plan requirements. I have been researching the individual deed provisions of the Juniper Hills project, which had Zoning Board approval for a project including an affordability component. I am working through the condo association to bring about administrative compliance with the affordability provisions.

Development/Permitting Matters:

The Planning Board held two regular meetings, on April 9 and April 23. The Zoning Board met on April 2. The Conservation Commission met on April 7 and April 22. There are numerous projects before the Boards; selected (longer term projects) are highlighted below:

- **Down East Definitive Plan Modification:** The Planning Board has an application before it to alter some of the previously-approved drainage infrastructure at this subdivision, off East Street. The applicant had been seeking a variance from the Board of Health no-blast regulation, but subsequently withdrew that request. The plan modification has not proceeded due to the applicant's continuing evaluation of their permitting and design options
- **Rogerson Commons/Rogerson Crossing.** A variation of a project that was originally reviewed several years ago, this proposal seeks approval of a short extension to Rogerson Commons, and development of a 66 unit townhouse development. The project consists of two applications to the Planning Board (one for subdivision, relative to the roadway extension, and the other for townhouse development, relative to the proposed multi family development). As is now typical, the applications are being reviewed concurrently so that review timelines and costs can be minimized and coordinated. The Conservation Commission has also received the appropriate filings, and those reviews are now underway, including a Peer Review.
- **Stanley Woolen Mill.** The developer has initiated a petition to Town Meeting to place the Mill in the Historic Mill Reuse Overlay zone. This site would enjoy the same regulatory provisions as previously authorized for the Waucantuck site (very similar to the Bernat site). I have continued to meet with the developer's team as they prepare to submit a special permit application.
- **Taft Hill Manor.** Approved as an "assisted living" facility in 1999, the developer is scheduled to appear before the Zoning Board in May for a determination as to the consistency of the current design plans with the previously approved special permit.
- **Throwbridge Acres.** The Town's third application for a Conservation Design Development is now under review with the Planning Board.
- **Waucantuck Mill.** Local permitting has been completed for a few months now. I understand that the property owner recently received the required sign-off from Mass Highway and Mass Historical. The next visible activity will be site mobilization, in anticipation of the demolition work. As stated previously, I hope and anticipate that this work will be taking place this summer (water flows are typically lower in the summer, making it a better time to do the demo while minimizing environmental impacts).
- **Carrington Landing.** There is an extensive history with this project. The Planning Board issued an approval for this project and there was no appeal filed. We anticipate that this will result in dismissal of the litigation.
- **Ledgemere.** Originally approved about 20 years ago, this project continues through the development process in phases. The developer is working to update all of their local permits.

- **Tsimongiannis.** There is a development proposal to build a small commercial building on Douglas Street, where the abandoned airplane sits. This project involves permitting through the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.

General

Development Activity, generally. I continue to work with several developers pursuing the possibility of development projects in Uxbridge. The single family residential market remains slow, but attention to commercial development (primarily retail and light industrial) continues. Obviously even projects that already have local permits (such as redevelopment of the Waucantuck Mill) have many steps and several years in their construction/redevelopment sequencing.

Subdivisions, generally. I continued to work closely with DPW and the Finance Director regarding a number of projects that have been relatively dormant in recent years. I have also set up a program to meet with virtually all project developers through April and May. The focus is to identify any permits that will be expiring, identify any construction concerns and ensure the adequacy of our surety. The Town has an unusually high number of “pending” subdivisions, and several where the developer has not been responsive in recent months or years. In these cases, we will prepare language for Town Meeting consideration to authorize the use of surety to complete projects.

National Grid Interstate Reliability Project. I attended the N Grid meeting regarding this project, which will involve reconstruction of existing (but empty) towers that run in the existing corridor from the Sutton/Douglas/Uxbridge corner to the southeast corner of town. Detailed meeting notes were provided separately.

Intradepartmental Coordination/Staffing. The resignation of our Conservation Administrator has resulted in additional duties for me, in particular, as I work to ensure that the Commission’s needs are met and their operations continue smoothly. During March there continued to be extensive energy committed to coordinating zoning inquiries, and also various code applicability to existing and proposed structures and uses.

Town Meeting Preparation. The Planning Board held 5 public hearings in April relative to zoning requests at Town Meeting. In addition to the preparation of materials, I have prepared reports that reflect the Board’s analysis and vote in order to meet the statutory requirements. In addition, I also participated in the Town Manager’s “21 So Main” cable program, reviewing in detail the proposal to recodify the Zoning Bylaws.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas

During the month of April dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 926 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That was 2 calls less than last month. As you may know, last year (2007) we responded to an all time high of 12,263 calls for service. There is not a slow down in any appreciable manner although the numbers have dropped a small amount. Projecting the calls out over the rest of year we are still at the second highest in the town’s history, second only to last year. 15% of April’s calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 85% were strictly police related.

73 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 89 separate violations. That is almost double the number of citations that were written in March.

13 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated with 3 injuries out of 23 occupants. This number is equal to the number of collisions in March of 2008. The department continues to redeploy some of our enforcement activities when available to attempt to reduce the numbers. "Click it or ticket" enforcement patrols from our grant began again the end of the March and continued thru mid April. Drivers over age 60 continued to be the most likely operators in these collisions, with those under age 19 coming in a close second. Persons under 21 years of age accounted for 7 of the operators. With the better weather here and the renewed enforcement thru such program as "click it or ticket," it is the hope of the department that accident rates continue to decrease. Last year the major age group, involved in collisions was age 36 to 45. With the new driver training laws, the under19 collision numbers will hopefully remain low. The real heart of the new regulations kicked in this month as the first classes with extended training time will be getting their licenses. It will be interesting to see the impact that these laws have. Collision involvement of those over 60 years old stayed the same for the second month in a row. All operators of motor vehicles need to buckle up, obey the speed limit, and drive courteously. In February 95% of all persons involved in collisions had their seat belt on. I am confident that this has helped reduce injuries. As a continued reminder, even though people seem to be adapting: **Please be advised that the traffic pattern has changed on the Quaker Highway at Chocolog Road. The stop sign has been removed by Mass Highway. Drivers going north on 146A and turning left need to yield the right of way to southbound 146A traffic. In the near future you may see a speed reduction in the area of 146A and Aldrich St.**

26 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. This is the same as last month. Tuesday was the day in which the most arrests occurred with Saturday coming in second. The majority of arrests were of people in the age groups of 18 to 24. There were 5 juvenile arrests for the second month in a row.

Clean up continues at the Bernat Mill Complex. Remember however that trespassing on that site and on the R.R. tracks is against the law. There is a temporary no parking area on Mendon Street while construction takes place on the Bridge over the Mumford River. Hopefully this will be finished this spring. PLEASE CO-OPERATE because the road is too narrow for parked cars.

Beware of internet scams as they continue to affect many residents of Uxbridge and all over the country. The newest one involves calls by persons saying they are from the IRS and wanting personal information from you so you can get your economic stimulus check. The IRS is not making these calls. To get the check you need only file your annual tax return. The scams can be checked out at a variety of websites including but not limited to the IACP website at www.idsafety.org.

Check our new and updated website www.uxbridgepolice.com for crime prevention resources and other information.

We are still seeing an increase again on allegations of sexual assault. In December we completed a Rape Aggression Defense Program taught by two of our officers. The course is about defense for women. It has been the subject of a series of articles by a reporter who took the class from The Milford Daily News. An additional course started in late March and ended in April. The class was well attended and was received very well by the female participants. Unfortunately, sexual is too often

perpetrated by some one you know instead of a stranger. Many members of the department are trained to investigate these crimes but we cannot help if it is not reported.

DON'T FORGET there is restricted traffic for vehicles over 6 tons gross registered weight on E. Hartford Avenue at Whittin Street. Any vehicle must yield to pedestrians on the Hecla Street bridge beyond the DPW Headquarters and the bridge is narrow on Laurel St. You can expect bridge narrowing in other areas of town in the near future.

We have been and continue to run a bit short staffed due to some on duty injuries. Both officers reported out last month are still out and will be throughout May. We wish them both quick recoveries. And hope to have them back by early June.

Remember, we are not the bedroom community of years ago and people need to use common sense crime prevention practices.

Members of the department made 2 Drunk Driving arrests this past month

Training: No training was scheduled this month but some will be held in May including two more dispatchers being trained in Emergency Medical Dispatch.

Emergency Management: The efforts are still ongoing to the town's new radio antennae system which should be completed soon we are only waiting for delivery of a few more items to complete the project including a small shed for the actual radio equipment.
The C.E.R.T. team continued its training on a monthly basis and they have been a huge help over this past year. I continue to serve on the Central MA Homeland Security Council.

Grants: The town received notice of an award of a light trailer and message board from the Homeland Security Council. It will be ready for delivery some time in the near future. The value of the items is approximately \$24,000. Other Grant applications are in the pipeline and can be reported on shortly.

AWARDS and Nominations: Officer Benjamin Smoot and Dispatcher Brian crater, under the supervision of Sgt. Timothy Burke entered the department in the 3rd Annual Massachusetts Law Enforcement Challenge and we were awarded a Bronze Category Award of Excellence. The awards ceremony for that is in May in Worcester.

Animal Control: The Animal Control officer responded to at least 46 complaints in the month of April in Uxbridge. Animal control also assisted Board of Health in a few rabies incidents involving wild animals. Animal Control also continued to work with the MSPCA regarding some cruelty to animal cases.

Anyone interested in a per diem ACO position can contact the Uxbridge Police Department for application forms and a job description. This is a stipend position to cover weekends and holidays.

Residents are reminded that their dog should have been licensed by March 31, 2008. Late fees now apply. The kennel process takes more time now (people who own more than 3 dogs) so please get you kennel applications at the town clerk as soon as possible.

The animal control bylaw and links to the kennel regulations are on the police department website at www.uxbridgepolice.com

As always I wish to thank you and the Board of Selectmen for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan

VITAL RECORDS

In the month of April 2008 we have processed the following public requests:

Birth certificates: 68

Marriage certificates: 13

Intentions of marriage: 5

Death certificates: 42

Total number of vital record requests processed: 128

We are required to file a monthly report regarding the number of births, marriages, and deaths that we have processed with the Commonwealth's Bureau of Vital Statistics. We issued and reported the following:

Birth Certificates: 17

Marriage Certificates: 2

Death Certificates: 15

REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES/LICENSES ISSUED

Business certificates issued, including renewals: 26

Couples filing for marriage intentions: 4

Raffle permits: 1

Fuel Storage permits: 4

Dog licenses: 54

Dog Kennel Licenses: 54

OTHER ITEMS

Notaries performed: 22

Street List Books sold: 1

Data Disks sold: 1

Our office issues the dog licenses, as well as processing the funds collected for the licenses, late fees, and fines by the Animal Control Officer.

TURNOVER

The total amount of funds collected by the Town Clerk's Office turned over to the Treasurer/Collector's Office for the month of April was **\$1,363.00**

VOTER REGISTRATION

We processed fifty four (54) voter registration applications. The state voter registration forms are multi-purpose; they may be used to register to vote, change party affiliation of currently registered voters, or to notify the registrars of a change in name or Uxbridge address.

Voter registration is available at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours or special registration hours, and through numerous state agencies including the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Voters may also obtain a mail-in voter registration form to complete and return via the U. S. Postal system.

Fifty four (54) voters were removed from the registration roles in April. Voters are removed when we receive official notice that they have moved or passed away, or that they have registered to vote in another jurisdiction. Voters may also request their names be removed from the registration roster.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Press releases issued:

- 1) Candidates who were certified for the May 20, 2008 Annual Town Election.
- 2) Availability of absentee ballots for the annual town election.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Research, which entails on average 20 – 25 hours per month
- Genealogy
- Swearing in of committee members, new police officers, and public officials

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The Board of Registrars certified nomination papers for candidates running in the annual town election.

ANNUAL CENSUS

The 2008 Annual Street Listing is currently being prepared.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING

The Town Clerk's Office sponsored a seminar by the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance for all candidates in this year's annual town election and all town office holders.

TOWN MEETING

We received notice from the Attorney General's Office that Articles 10, 11, 13, and 20 from the Annual Town Meeting of November 20, 2007 were approved.

Preparation is under way for the Annual Spring Town Meeting, to be held on May 13.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Preparation for the May 20, 2008 Annual Town Election.
- Providing lists of registered businesses for the Department of Revenue (state)
- Participation in the 2010 Federal Census

PENDING ITEMS

- Streamline "Doing Business As" (DBA) certification process
- Review of fee schedule